



## *March 2024 Newsletter*

Dear Friends,

We kicked off March by receiving the 2024 Distinguished Service Award from the Middle States Council for Social Studies at their educator conference in Annapolis. This award recognizes our “innovative ideas to support more effective social studies education.” As personal finance and economics are often infused into social studies curriculum and courses, we’re so honored to be recognized by the education community for our work. See photos from the ceremony [here](#).

We’re proud to be recognized for the work we do in reaching more than 200,000 Maryland students a year. Social studies classes are only one place where our work is relevant - we provide teachers with compelling personal finance and economics concepts and programs that they can use in all grades and subjects, all year long. To see our impact, check out our annual report - [here](#).

Did you know that April is both Financial Education Month AND Poetry Month? We're excited to share that we've decided to honor both by launching a Financial Education Poetry Performance Contest for students and teachers! Read below for the details about how to enter.

It's a busy time of year at MCEE. Student teams are competing in MCEE programs, teachers are using [MCEE's tools](#) to relate their classroom conversations to Women's History Month, and we're planning our annual awards event in May and our annual educator Summit in June. It's a great time to explore our resources, check out our programs, and join our financial education journey!

Looking forward,  
Julie Weaver  
MCEE Executive Director

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## **Coming in June: 2024 Maryland Financial and Economic Educators Summit**



Mark your calendar! MCEE's annual Maryland Financial and Economic Educators Summit is coming up on Tuesday, June 25 at the Hotel at Arundel Preserve in Hanover, MD! Join more than 100 fellow educators who teach all subjects for a jam-packed day of illuminating workshops, collaborative sessions, and presentations by thought leaders in personal finance and economics.

Want a sneak peek? Some of the sessions planned for this year's Summit include *Making Personal Finance Lessons More Engaging*, *Is College Worth It?*, *Using Literature and STEAM to Teach Personal Finance*, and *Using Financial Simulations and Reality Fairs in the Classroom*.

Every year, attendees leave the Summit with new ideas, relevant lesson plans, and proven classroom teaching strategies that enhance their work with students. Be one of them this June!

[Learn more and register here](#)

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## **NEW! Inaugural Financial Education Poetry Competition**

Calling all teachers and students! You're invited to enter MCEE's inaugural Financial Education Poetry Competition - a contest that combines financial understanding with creativity!

Students and teachers of all grade levels can submit a video in which you read or perform your original poem, rap, or slam focused around a financial literacy concept (such as spending, saving, budgeting, compound interest, stocks, etc.). *The deadline to submit entries is April 15, 2024.* Competition winners receive an Amazon Gift Card and will be honored at the MCEE Annual Awards in May.

[For entry details and requirements, click here](#)

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## Celebrating 70 Years of Impact

MCEE's 70th anniversary celebration continues!

**Historic fact of the month:** Over its 70 year history, MCEE has had seven Executive Directors. Four of those leaders are women, including MCEE's founding Executive Director, Dr. Elinor Pancoast!

**MCEE photo of the month:** Former Executive Director Mary Ann Hewitt conducts a workshop for elementary school educators in the 90s. Learn more about MCEE's 70th anniversary [here](#).



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**Calendar: Student Programs and Educator Events**



[Find our full calendar here](#)

- **Poster Contest:** Student submissions for MCEE's A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words Poster Contest are due this **Friday, March 15**. Learn more and sign up [here](#)!
- **SIFMA: Portfolio Evaluation:** Educators, join (virtually) MCEE and the Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association on **Monday, March 18 at 5pm** to learn how to effectively evaluate Stock Market Game™ portfolios so students can make better informed investment decisions. [Details](#).
- **Economics Challenge:** The initial online testing phase of this multi-round competition focused on micro-and-macro-economic principles begins next week, **March 18-22**. Still looking to register a team of students? [Click here!](#)
- **SIFMA: Intro to Stocks:** Open to registered Stock Market Game™ teachers, this SIFMA webinar on **Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30pm** will instruct and model methods to introduce stocks to students. Register [here](#).
- **Personal Finance Challenge:** Online testing for this academic competition where students learn about and then demonstrate their knowledge of personal finance concepts is **April 8-12** so now is the time to [learn more and register!](#)

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## **Educator Resource of the Month: Women's History Month**

Every month, MCEE provides timely resources to support student learning of economics and personal finance in the classroom and at home. With this month being Women's History Month, what better time to learn all about trailblazing women in finance?

MCEE has created a set of educational flash cards to introduce students to female leaders of the past and present. Find them, along with a resource calendar with additional Women's History Month-focused lessons and activities, [here](#).

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## **Educator Spotlight: Dawn Jester Uses Economics as a Portal to the World**

In Dawn Jester's 6th grade Contemporary World Geography class at North Harford Middle School in Harford County, the conversations range from political systems and market structures to choosing meals and playing sports. The latter subjects may sound odd for a social studies class, but according to the veteran teacher, that's exactly the point. Read more about Dawn's work, [here](#).

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